

will be performed for free on July Fourth at 7 p.m. followed by fireworks. Family activities begin 4:30 p.m. with a rock climbing wall and inflatable games. (800) 522-4282; www.visithalifax.com

- **Fireworks Extravaganza at Blowing Rock** -- Tweetsie Railroad will host Blowing Rock's annual Fourth of July Fireworks Extravaganza once again in 2007 – the park's 50th anniversary season. The celebration honors our country's independence with festivities including evening entertainment and the High Country's most spectacular fireworks show. July 4th also marks a significant day in Tweetsie's history as the park opened its gates to the public exactly fifty years ago, on July 4th, 1957. More than 200 large-caliber pyrotechnic mortar shells will light up the sky, dazzle guests and be a triumphant celebration of America's birthday. The park will remain open until 9 p.m. for this special event. (877) TWEETSIE (893-3874); www.tweetsie.com
- **Crystal Coast Fourth of July Fireworks & Concerts** -- The Fourth of July is celebrated on the Crystal Coast with concerts and fireworks. Evening concerts invite picnics on the beach in Atlantic Beach and dancing on the waterfront in Morehead City. Fireworks are scheduled at 9 p.m. in Atlantic Beach, Morehead City and Emerald Isle. (252) 726-8148; www.crystalcoastnc.org
- **Fourth of July Celebration at the N.C. State Fairgrounds** -- Presented by the Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department in collaboration with the N.C. State Fairgrounds, this free event features carnival games, rides, inflatables, displays for the whole family and live music. Gates open at 2:30 p.m. and fireworks begin at 9:15 p.m. Guests can stay after the fireworks until 10:30 p.m. for a musical show featuring the music of Mighty Lester. (919) 831-6854; www.raleighnc.gov/parks
- **Fabulous Fourth at Columbus** -- The Town of Columbus hosts its 35th annual Fabulous Fourth celebration in downtown from 10 a.m. to midnight on July 4th. Admission is free and activities include amusement rides, craft vendors, food and drinks, huge fireworks displays, recreational competitions, and music. Events include a greased pole climb, horseshoe tournament and volleyball tournament. (828) 894-8236; www.columbusnc.com/Fourth.htm
- **Southport's North Carolina Fourth of July Festival** -- Celebrating our nation's independence for more than 200 years, the City of Southport has been designated the official N.C. Fourth of July Festival. The event includes a parade, 5K road race, more than 100 arts and craft vendors, a naturalization ceremony, beach events, entertainment, regatta, children events and a flag retirement ceremony. The celebration has grown from colonial times when ships at anchor in the harbor fired their cannons to today's festival, where 40,000 to 50,000 people are expected. (910) 457-6964; www.ncFourthofJuly.com
- **Fourth of July Riverfront Celebration** -- The City of Wilmington presents the Fourth of July Riverfront Celebration featuring the Battleship Blast. The Blast features one of the largest choreographed fireworks displays in the state exploding over the Battleship North Carolina at 9:05 p.m. From 5 to 10 p.m. bands will entertain the crowd in Riverfront Park. (910) 251-5797; www.battleshipnc.com
- **July 4th Celebration in the Village of Pinehurst** -- The Annual Pet Parade returns at 9 a.m. followed immediately by the Village Community Parade. The Community Parade features the Kazoo Band, golf cart brigade, fire trucks and Uncle Sam. Festivities run all day and include a fireworks display at night. (910) 295-7462; www.villageofpinehurst.org
- **Franklin's Fourth of July Fireworks & Fun Day** -- Join in the fun of the largest Independence Day Celebration in Western North Carolina. Activities begin at 10 a.m. with the annual horseshoe